
Living Springs

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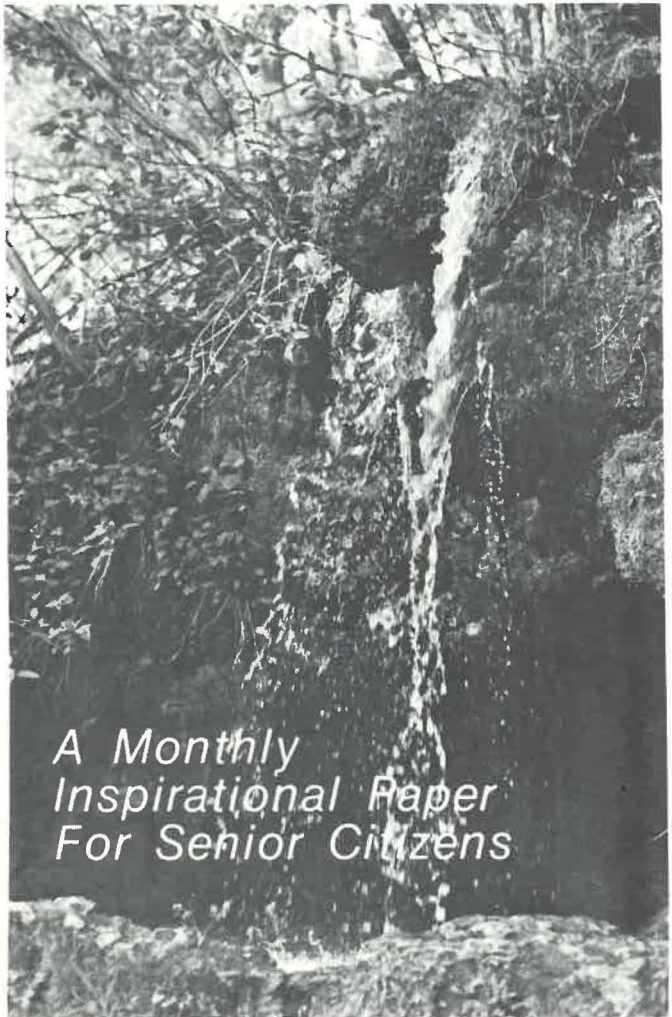
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*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

AUGUST, 1980

The ***FOUNDATION*** Of Justice

by
Lehman Strauss

Forgiveness cannot be effected, nor righteousness declared, until guilt has been established. If a man is not guilty, no act or declaration of justification is needed. The man who contends that he does not need to be justified by God must first establish the evidence that there is no accusation against him. But he who believes the Scriptures, and examines his own heart honestly, must admit that he is an accused and guilty sinner before God. We know that there is something wrong with the human race. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

God chose the Apostle Paul to expound the doctrine of Justification. This Paul did in detail in his Epistle to the Romans. Romans 1:18-3:20 depicts a court scene. In 1:18-32 the unrighteousness of the Gentiles is exposed to the light. With great delicacy Paul alluded to some of the vile practices of which they were guilty. Then in clear and bold logic, he listed twenty-five charges against man. In chapter 2:1-16 he shows that the self-righteous are equally guilty before God. The moralists of Paul's day were men of culture, refinement, and intellect, but they too were inexcusable. In the remainder of chapter 2, verses 17-29, the Apostle strips the Jew of every vestige of the cloak of self-righteousness, so that when we reach chapter 3, verse 19, God's startling verdict is "Guilty!" Every mouth is stopped and all the world is accused before Him. A sad picture, but true!

Consider well and take seriously the fact of the universality of sin. You and I are guilty and

condemned. No earthly or fleshly means, no court on earth can justify us in God's sight. We lack righteousness. God has a righteousness which He desires to make ours. If we accept it, He will pardon, forgive, free, cleanse, and justify us. Upon this foundation God goes into action. Man's need and his inability to help himself occasion a move on God's part. He must find a way to ransom His fallen creature and to remove both the penalty and guilt of man's sin.

The question arises, How can God justify the guilty sinner and at the same time remain just? How can He declare an unrighteous man righteous and Himself remain right? This is the problem simply stated, and it is the basis upon which God acts in Justification. The very nature of God demands that He justify the righteous and condemn the guilty. If, out of favoritism, or for other reasons, God cleared the guilty and condemned the righteous, He would not be administering justice. Little wonder that one theologian suggested that the holy and righteous God faced the greatest riddle ever when He set out to justify the ungodly.

God, in keeping with His holiness and justice, cannot deal unjustly with guilty sinners. He must judge and condemn the guilty. But since all are guilty and deserving of judgment, how can He save those whom He loves? From the human viewpoint this is an insurmountable problem, one for which there is no solution. But God did find a way whereby He could remain just and at the same time justify the guilty who would do no more than believe. "It is God that justifieth" (Romans 8:33).

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

edited by
Kathy Jo Kirkbride

What Are You Waiting For?

*What are you waiting for
When time is oh, so short,
When life is fleeting by
Is salvation your last resort?*

*What are you waiting for
When days are flying by,
When God is speaking to you
Through Jesus Christ on high.*

*Please, don't wait any longer;
Accept the gift He's given.
For now, today's the day;
Receive Christ Jesus, the Risen.*

*...behold, now is the accepted
time, behold, now is the day of
salvation. II Corinthians 6:2*

God's Will for Life

*When hours look
so dark and dreary,
And living becomes
a game;
When yesterday held
no promising future,
And tomorrow seems
about the same;
Just place your hope
in the One who cares,
For His life He gladly shares!*
Cindy Fields

Sally Isgro

After a long, dry sermon, the minister announced that the board would hold a brief meeting immediately after the benediction. A stranger was the first to greet the minister up front after the service. "You must have misunderstood the announcement," said the pastor. "I said a meeting of the board." "So I heard," said the stranger, "and if there was anyone more bored than I was, I'd like to meet him."

Most of us who are preachers have been guilty at one time or another and probably more times than we want to admit, of preaching long dry sermons. At the same time, many church members come to church expecting nothing from the service. They have a critical spirit and are "bored" with life before they come. They lend nothing to church and they receive nothing.

It should be observed at this point that when one becomes a Christian, that is, been born again, the recipient of eternal life, there is a difference. Among many other miracle experiences which occur at the time of salvation, it is said we have been "crucified with Christ." The "crucified" experience will give us new attitudes toward God and those who know and serve Him. Then even a long and boring sermon may be more enjoyable.

The Christian who assesses himself as being crucified with Christ has: NO AMBITION and, so, has nothing to be jealous about; NO REPUTATION and, so, has nothing to fight about; NO POSSESSIONS and, so, nothing to worry about; NO "RIGHTS" and, so, he cannot

suffer wrong; he is ALREADY DEAD and, so, no one can kill him. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless, I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20).

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another (Gal. 5:22-26).

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal. 6:14).

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (Colossians 2:12,13).

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him" (Rom. 6:6-8).

"Lord, if my footsteps should falter, and I be prepared to retreat; If desert and thorn cause lamenting, Lord, show me Thy feet—Thy bleeding feet, Thy nail-scarred feet—My Jesus, show me Thy feet."

Daily Walk Through God's Word

August 1980

Verse: I Peter 5:7-

"Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you."

by Keith A.

August	Morning James	Evening Judges
1	1	6
2	2	7
3	3	8
4	4	9
5	5	10&11
	I Peter	
6	1	12&13
7	2	14&15
8	3	16
9	4	17&18
10	5	19
	II Peter	
11	1	20
12	2	21
		Ruth
13	3	1
	I John	
14	1	2
15	2	3
16	3	4
		I Samuel
17	4	1
18	5	2
19	II&III John	3&4
20	Jude	5&6
	Revelation	
21	1&2	7&8
22	3&4	9
23	5&6	10&11
24	7&8	12&13
25	9,10&11	14
26	12&13	15&16
27	14,15&16	17
28	17&18	18&19
29	19&20	20
30	21	21
31	22	22

Rev. Jasper L. Dean was born in 1891 in Alton, Ohio, where he lived with four brothers and two sisters. He came to acknowledge Christ as Lord and Savior in 1912. At an earlier revival meeting he had joined the church, but he did not really understand what salvation was all about. Nevertheless, he was convicted about some of his activities, and soon gave them up. At the next revival meetings he received a new Bible and started reading it. When he came to the passage in John 3 where Christ tells Nicodemus, "You must be born again," Jasper realized that this had never happened to him. He entered into the family of God on that day.

During the next 27 years he was working in a dental laboratory, and he was the manager of that lab for 21 of those years. He was sent to Chicago where he received special training in promoting new dental techniques and materials. He traveled around Ohio, where he spoke to different groups on those topics. On Sundays, Jasper would preach at churches in the area who needed an interim pastor. Because he was working, he did not need to depend on the church for support, which helped the young churches get on their feet financially.

He gave up church work for four years, but returned to work with a storeroom church on the Hilltop in Columbus, Ohio, in 1940. Within one year they had a church building built and paid for. In 1944 he gave up lab work and became the fulltime pastor of the Hilltop Community Church, where he remained for 18 years. Up

Verse For

"Keep thy heart with al
are the issues of life."

Servants

Wharton

until this time, he had had little formal theological education; but after much study, he was ordained by the church board in 1948. In 1955 he took a missionary tour in South America, through Columbia, Ecuador, and Brazil.

Jasper and his wife, Mae, had five children, and one of them, Lawrence, was started in the dental laboratory business by his father. In 1962 Jasper retired from the pastorate, and his son gave him a job in public relations for the dental lab. Along with this, he was still being given speaking engagements, including weddings and funerals.

In an age when most Christians have no idea what Christianity is all about, Rev. Dean is able to give some insights into what Christianity means for him: "Everything." He says, "Early in my life I was concerned about escaping hell; I didn't want to die. But as I grew, I realized that there was something more than that. My lifestyle was changed; worldly activities were eradicated." He continues to say, "I learned that I was to live to exalt Christ." He believes that the most important responsibility in being a Christian is to exert a Christ-like influence on the people around him. "The only way to have this," he says, "is to have a regular period of Bible reading and study." With this comment, Rev. Dean has hit upon a very important point, and one which every Christian, young and old, needs to take heed of.

ie Month:

diligence; for out of it
Proverbs 4:23

Note Worthy

edited by
Sharon Lahaie

In 1904 a songwriter and minister, Rev. W. Stillman Martin, his wife, and son, nine years old, were visiting friends in New York City. During the course of the visit Mr. Martin was asked to preach one Sunday. He promised to do so and a date was set.

On the Sunday he was to preach, his wife, who had been quite ill for some time, was much worse. Mr. Martin decided to call the church and tell the officers he would not be able to preach that day. Just as he was about to telephone, his son said to him, "Father, don't you think if God wants you to preach today, He will take care of Mother while you are away?"

The father felt rebuked and went ahead and preached. That morning God used his message and several decisions were made at the close of the service. Mr. Martin returned home glad he had obeyed God.

His son met him at the door and placed a used envelope in his hands. Looking on the back he found the words to this beautiful song. Mrs. Martin had written it, inspired by the simple faith of her boy. Mr. Martin read the words and quickly went to the organ in another room. Within minutes he wrote the tune.

God will take care of you,
Thru ev'ry day,
O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Thought For The Month

"Error needs artificial support; truth can stand alone.

Search Me, And Know My Heart

Psalm 139

by
Paul Sewell

Have you ever searched for the answers to life's troubles? Sometimes we try to take problems into our own hands and search for solutions without consulting God. Everyone likes to do things his own way, but when we selfishly leave God out of the solution we only endanger ourselves to greater problems. King David realized his need to turn his life over to God. He therefore rendered himself to the search of God. God's search involves a close examination into our lives. Only through total commitment and a surrendered will can this search take place. If God's eye is on a little sparrow who is totally dependent on God's care, how much more will His eye keep watch on His own children.

The searching eye of God is one of love. Its depth is unmeasured because the love of God is beyond measure. The love of God brings us into submission; sometimes under trials, but always unto triumph. God searches our lives with love: a love which complements an unbounding amount of understanding. God knows the trials that we go through. He knows our ups and downs, and He knows when we wander away from Him. God's search is complete. He evaluates our ways and follows behind us in protection, yet leading us along with a hand of guidance.

God's search was difficult for David to comprehend. How could the search of God include both an eye of love and understanding? God's search is explained through His omniscience, His knowledge of all things. His knowledge is above all other knowledge because God is the originator of all intelligence. The knowledge of God is a stronghold of faith for us as Christians. He leads us away from problems and trials and then holds us in safety; He provides light when we grope aimlessly in darkness.

Oftentimes we think our problems too great for God to consider. It is because we lose sight of God's leading, however, that we find ourselves entangled with problems. God knows each of our needs and He cares for our well-being. David realized his need for cleansing and restitution. He acknowledged the helping hand of his Lord and he submitted to God's leading. In fact, David asked God to examine his

entire life: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts." God's examination process involves two areas: searching and trying. God searches the innermost depths of our hearts for wickedness, lack of faith, or maybe even bitterness. Once the search is completed, He begins to try us concerning our sin. The only possible way to benefit from God's search, moreover, is to obediently submit to the Holy Spirit's conviction.

David asked to be searched. He then invited God to put him on trial. He willingly put himself on the spiritual witness stand to be tried. He asked God to examine his human heart and fleshly thoughts. After the examination was completed, David asked one more thing of the Lord—to be led in the way everlasting. David sought to be examined by God and asked for the leading guidance of a judge who always examines in love. We as Christians should ask God to search us daily, for then we can experience the motivating power of a closer walk with God.

Let's Chatter

by
Sharon Lahaie

About a Matter

The staff has asked the readers of LIVING SPRINGS to send in any original poems they have written if they wish for them to be published in LIVING SPRINGS. This gives you an opportunity to share your thoughts and creativity with others, and it gives those who read them enjoyment and a blessing.

Here is a poem written by Frieda Brunken of Silvis, Illinois. Thank you, Frieda, for sharing this poem!

Calvary

*O depths of mercy, can it be
That Thou hast ransomed even me?
Yes, praise His name, my soul is free,
All because of Calvary.*

*Free from condemnation,
Free from every guilt!
All because my Savior
Died at Calvary!*

*My Savior rose up from the dead—
Triumphant over death!
And because He lives, I, too, shall live
Throughout eternity!*

*Eternity with Jesus! How blissful that will be!
No pain, nor care, shall ever trouble me
Throughout the endless ages,
When I His face shall see!*

Frieda Brunken

Quizzle by Michelle Randall

Word Find - Books of the Old Testament

Words:

Amos	Obadiah
Exodus	Samuel
Hosea	Esther
Jonah	Haggai
Lamentations	Joel
Nahum	Kings
Psalms	Micah
Chronicles	Proverbs
Ezra	Song of Solomon
Isaiah	
Joshua	
Leviticus	
Numbers	
Ruth	
Ecclesiastes	
Genesis	
Job	
Judges	
Malachi	

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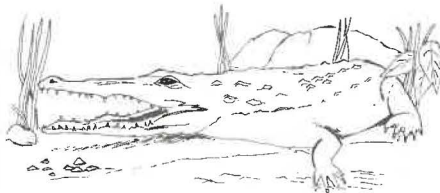
Looking At God's Creation

by
Michelle Randall

The crocodile, the world's largest reptile, is probably the most feared animal of God's creation. And rightly so—many experts believe that crocodiles kill more humans than do lions, tigers, leopards, and snakes combined. Someone has estimated that Africa alone loses about 1000 people each year to crocodiles.

The crocodile lives in central and southern Africa, the warmer parts of Asia, tropical Pacific islands, northern Australia, and the warmer parts of the Americas. Since the increased desire for crocodile leather fashions, however, the population of crocodiles, especially in the Americas, has decreased greatly. Some laws about shooting crocodiles and the National Parks and Game Reserves will preserve the species from extinction.

The crocodile has two deadly weapons—his long powerful tail and his vice-like jaws. A sideways blow of his tail can knock down and break the legs of the largest buck. But, the crocodile's favorite (and famous) attack is to



drift unseen in the murky shallows, up behind his prey, then submerge entirely before making a swift lunge to seize his prey in his jaws.

Many times this is how Satan attacks us as Christians. We may be drifting along, toying on the line between sin and fellowship with God when suddenly there is Satan, closing his vice-like grip on our lives. Or, with some Christians who may be a little stronger—like the large buck or

cow in the jaws of a crocodile—Satan may just take hold of us (by our thoughts and/or desires) and hold on, pulling just enough to keep us off balance until we eventually give up and give in to the sin. In the case of the buck, the crocodile eventually pulls him into the water where he drowns. He has achieved the victory just by being persistent.

We can win our battles against Satan by being persistent in our daily Bible reading and developing our thought patterns to think on good things (Phil. 4:8). If we are attuned to God we will be able to detect the subtle yet deadly approaches of Satan.

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*water that I shall
water that I shall
water springing up*
John 4:14

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Artists

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